REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as being anticipated by Thales Mobile Mapper. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection

The Thales Mobile Mapper was published on July 26, 2003 and the present application was filed on October 28, 2003, less than one year prior to the filing date. Since the United States grants a one-year grace period, and the publication was to the instant assignee, the Thales Mobile Mapper is not prior art and accordingly this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Clark, Jr. et al. In response, claim 1 has been amended and the claims are believed to be patentable over Clark, Jr. et al. for the reasons discussed below.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 21 are directed to the invention which reduces the difficulties in creating a contour map that has been evenly distributed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the user is forced to enter data as GPS way points in the grid network and that the user is forced to enter data as GIS feature descriptions in the grid network.

Advantageously, a grid mapping utility assures that the field worker gathers information from an evenly distributed set of locations. This in turn assures a prescribed density of measurements (prescribed by the GIS or project manager and not by field personnel who may not be sufficiently trained or motivated to gather high-quality data on their own). Currently, the field workers must occupy a variety of sites and record measurements made with instruments such as depth sounders, chemical detectors, gravimeters, magnetometers, hydrometers, etc. The aim is often to make contour maps, but not necessarily. It is very important to record a sufficient number of recordings over the entire extent of the area to be mapped. And it is important to record an even density of measurements without missing any areas and so leave gaps in the map. This can be very hard to achieve outdoors, particularly on uneven terrain or terrain with foliage. If the mapping density is not sufficient or if areas were missed, the project manager must send someone out to complete the mapping. This can waste a lot of time and money. The grid mapping utility solves this problem. By contrast, Clark, et al. only discloses a grid, not a great

mapping utility as recited in claims 1, 15 and 21. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-14 and 16-20 recite additional, important limitations and should be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 15 and 21 as well as on their own merits.

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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